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2025 Bedford County Fair Schedule

* Schedule Subject to Change

	Saturday, June	21
	Bedford County Fairest	of the Fair
11:00 а.м. І	PRECIOUS MISS BEDFORD COUNTY FAIR	GIRLS 0-11 MONTHS
11:30 а.м. І	BABY MISS BEDFORD COUNTY FAIR	GIRLS 12-23 MONTHS
12:00 р.м.	ODDLER MISS BEDFORD COUNTY FAIR	GIRLS 2-3 YEARS
12:30 р.м.	INY MISS BEDFORD COUNTY FAIR	GIRLS 4-5 YEARS
1:00 р.м.	PETITE MISS BEDFORD COUNTY FAIR	Girls 6-7 years Girls 8-10 years Girls 81-12 years Girls 11-12 years Women 21-49 years, single or married Women 50 years+, single or married Special needs girls/women of all ages
1:30 р.м.	ITTLE MISS BEDFORD COUNTY FAIR	
2:00 р.м.	UNIOR MISS BEDFORD COUNTY FAIR	
2:30 р.м.	SUPREME MS./MRS. BEDFORD COUNTY FAIR	
3:00 р.м. (GOLDEN GIRL (IN MEMORY OF JOAN PIMENTEL)	
3:30 р.м. J	OYFUL MISS BEDFORD COUNTY FAIR	
4:30 р.м.	OUNG MISS BEDFORD COUNTY FAIR	GIRLS 13-15 YEARS
	MISS BEDFORD COUNTY FAIREST OF THE FAIR	GIRLS 16-20 YEARS
* All pag	geants held at Shelbyville Central Hi	gh School Auditorium *
	Sunday July	10
	Sunday, July	10
1:00 р.м 5:00 р.м.	RECEIVING HOME EC/AG EXHIBITS	
1:00 р.м.	Receiving Green Thumb Challenge Entrie	s
2:00 р.м.	GREEN THUMB CHALLENGE JUDGING	
	Monday, July	14
9:00 A.M 12:00 NOON	Home Ec/Ag Exhibit Judging	
5:00 р.м.	OPEN DAIRY HEIFER SHOW	
6:00 р.м.	OPENING CEREMONY	
	DON'T MISS CRAIG CAMPBELL SINGING THE N	ATIONAL ANTHEM AT THE OPENING CEREMONY!
6:00 р.м 9:00 р.м.	HOME EC/AG EXHIBITS (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC	;)
6:00 р.м.	4-H CHICK CHAIN	
7:00 р.м.	YOUTH COMPETITION NIGHT	
7:30 р.м.	KIDS PEDAL PULL	
7:30 р.м.	MARY & BILLY TARKINGTON AND JERRY WEB	b - Entertainment
	Tuesday, July	15
4:00 p.m 9:00 p.m.	Home Ec/Ag Exhibits (Open to the	
5:30 p.m.	Husband/Wife Calling Contest Reg	
5:45 p.m.	Farmer Olympics Registration (Ho	
6:00 p.m.	Farmer Olympics	
6:00 p.m.	Live Auction Registration (Horse S	Show Ring)
6:00 p.m.	Husband/Wife Calling Contest	
6:00 p.m.	Open Beef Show	

Boots, Beaus, and Bling Pageant (Building 2) Preslee Campbell – Entertainment Live Auction (Following Farmer Olympics)

Wednesday, July 16

Boots, Beaus, & Bling Check-In/Registration

10:00 a.m.	Senior Citizens Day
10:00 a.m 6:00 p.m.	Receiving Poultry & Rabbit Entries
10:00 a.m 6:00 p.m.	Receiving Open & Junior Egg Entries
10:00 a.m 6:00 p.m.	Receiving Ugly Chicken Entries
4:00 p.m 9:00 p.m.	Home Ec/Ag Exhibits (Open to the Public)
5:30 p.m.	Cornhole Registration
6:00 p.m.	Faith & Patriotic Night - Rob McKamey, Speaker
6:30 p.m.	The Cavaliers - Entertainment
6:30 p.m.	Cornhole Tournament
7:00 p.m.	Special Military Service
7:00 p.m.	Fun Dog Show Registration
7:30 p.m.	Fun Dog Show
7:30 p.m.	Freedom Sings - Entertainment
	Featuring Layla Tucker and Hunter Kirbow & The Dimes

6:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

Thursday, July 17

Special Needs Dav 0:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Home Ec/Ag Exhibits (Open to the Public) :00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. :00 p.m. **Turkey Calling Contest Registration** :30 p.m. **Turkey Calling Contest** i:00 p.m. **Truck & Tractor Pull Registration** ':00 p.m. **Truck & Tractor Pull Mid State Cloggers - Entertainment** ':00 p.m.

Friday, July 18

4:00 p.m 9:00 p.m.	Home Ec/Ag Exhibits (Open to the Public)
6:00 p.m.	All Country Pleasure Horse, Draft Horse
	& Mule Show Registration
6:00 p.m.	Mini Pull Registration
6:00 p.m.	Open Sheep Show
7:00 p.m.	Mini Pull
7:00 p.m.	All Country Pleasure Horse, Draft Horse & Mule Show
7:00 p.m.	Jed Harrelson - Entertainment
	Nº UGA

Saturday, July 19

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Cruise-In
1:00 p.m 9:00 p.m.	Home Ec/Ag Exhibits (Open to the Public)
2:00 p.m.	Central Region 4-H Meat Goat Show
3:00 p.m.	Donkey (Any Size) & Mini Mule Show Registration
4:00 p.m.	Donkey (Any Size) & Mini Mule Show
5:00 p.m.	Antique Tractor Pull
6:30 p.m.	Poultry & Rabbit Show Awards (Building 2)
7:00 p.m.	Huffer Brothers - Entertainment
7:00 p.m.	Backseat Driver Competition Registration (Horse Show Ring)
7:30 p.m.	Backseat Driver Competition (Horse Show Ring)
9:00 p.m 10:00 p.m.	Home Ec/Ag Exhibits Pickup

Sunday, July 20

:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Home Ec/Ag Exhibits Pickup

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Land of the Brave

Celebrating veterans who watch over us from sea to shining sea.

I F YOU'VE ever seen a fighter jet cut across the sky, you know what powerful looks like. You know what freedom sounds like. That roar overhead reminds us that we live in a country where people put their lives on the line so the rest of us can live without fear. They fly above land and sea, from coast to coast, from sea to shining sea, watching over the red, white, and blue.

This issue of Good News is dedicated to the brave — the ones who stepped forward when they didn't have to. Who negotiated peace with strength. Who shook hands with people they never met and still called them "brother." Who boarded boats and planes and tanks and flew into danger because protection is a calling of duty.

We salute our veterans not just for what they did but for what they made possible.



Civility. Progress. A world where we can disagree and still shake hands at the end of the day. That handshake is not weakness. It's quite the opposite.

Independence isn't handed out. It's fought for. And the people who have worn the uniform, our veterans, carry that story everywhere they go. They are the reason the Stars and Stripes still wave. They are the reason we can gather around dinner tables, build businesses, fall in love, and sleep through the night without fear of bombs above or boots at the door.

Sometimes, honoring them means telling their stories. Sometimes it means listening. And sometimes it's as simple as standing still, hand on heart, letting the wind catch the flag on a clear day, and knowing you are lucky to live here.

This is the Land of the Brave. GN

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Sissy Smith

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Good News

Shelbyville Garden Club

GROWING COMMUNITY, ONE GARDEN AT A TIME

By Amanda E. West Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

T HE SHELBYVILLE Garden Club has been cultivating beauty — not just in flowerbeds, but in friendships and civic pride — since April 27, 1955. Whether they're planting flowers at The Fly Arts Center, hosting educational workshops, or simply swapping gardening tips, the club's members share a deep-rooted love for making our community a more beautiful place to live.

Babs Chicoine has been a member since 2009 and currently serves as the club president. Chicoine grew up in a suburb of Chicago, Illinois, called Downers Grove. For her, the appreciation of flowers bloomed when she was a child.

"The house I grew up in had a long, narrow strip of peonies planted by the previous owners that grew on the side of the yard. Every year, I would help

 Members Janie Burke > and Pam Beasley judge floral entries — part of the club's ongoing celebration of gardening excellence and creativity. my mother pick these to decorate the graves of our relatives on Memorial Day. They were one of the first flowers to bloom in our yard and signaled the start of warmer weather," recalled Chicoine. "Years later, when I sold my parents' home, I dug up as many peonies as I could and planted them in my yard."

Seeds planted within her heart sprouted, and the tiny buds were fertilized and watered while visiting Colonial Williamsburg.

"My husband and I stayed at a guest house, and our hostess was Mrs. Johnson, who was a member of a garden club. Her floral arrangements were always beautiful, and I enjoyed hearing her stories of belonging to a club. So, when I was invited to attend the spring luncheon of the Shelbyville Garden Club at the RiverBend Country Club by one of the members, I jumped at the chance."

Every other year, they provide centerpieces for the tables at the library luncheon held at the Blue Ribbon Circle. Last year, they donated orchids, which were used as door prizes. They also participate in Arbor Day, and every first week of June, they celebrate National Garden Week. In order to inspire future generations of gardeners, each December at their Christmas luncheon, members donate toward the Argie Cooper Library or to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. They have also purchased books on gardening and ecology and donated them to our local school libraries.

"Our club members tended a garden at Never Rest Park, provided and planted flowers at The Fly, the old chamber of commerce building, and we even helped Bedford Manor Nursing Home create a vegetable garden for their residents. Helen Garner, one of our longtime members of 40 years, was on the Beautification Committee for the chamber for 12 years. We plant flowers in planters, whiskey barrels, and around the trees in the square. We've also worked alongside Habitat for Humanity to provide trees for new homeowners, and some of our members have provided cuttings from their own gar-

dens," Chicoine said.



Becky Nichols leads the program, sharing inspiration and insight with fellow members. Programs rotate monthly and often focus on education, design, or outreach.

"We all share one thing – a love of growing."

Babs Chicoine

100

1



Current president Babs Chicoine, who joined in 2009, chats with Frances Hayes

Garner joined the group shortly after the death of her son.

"She felt lost, but through our member, Mary Higgins, she found comfort in her love of flowers, the friendships she made in the club, and the good times she shared with other members. Her favorite flower is red roses, which were often gifted to her by her husband and son. Suzy Stewart, who owned Mary's Flowers, has been a member since 1995. When Suzy sold the shop, the ladies from the club told her it was time to join. We all share one thing — a love of growing."

The Shelbyville Garden Club is open to anyone who shares their love of growing flowers, herbs, or vegetables. They welcome those who use traditional planting methods and have dozens of acres, and those who have smaller spaces, such as those using raised beds, corners of balconies, or makeshift greenhouses. Unless members are taking a planned "field trip," they meet from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at RiverBend Country Club on the third Wednesday of each month. The only exceptions are November to January, when they do not meet except for their annual Christmas luncheon in December.

Through shared passions and dedicated hands, the Shelbyville Garden Club proves that a community flourishes best when nurtured — like a well-tended garden. **GN**



▲ Becky Nichols, Suzy Stewart, Frances Hayes, Jo Cathey, Helen Garner, Sherrie Moore, Elly Grimaldi, Sarah Insell, Pam Beasley, Babs Chicoine, Janie Burke, Freda Head, Faye Sudberry, Marge Gavin, Shirley McGee. Members not present: Ann Johnson and Donna Simmons. Members of the Shelbyville Garden Club — a community of growers and givers, each dedicated to making Bedford County bloom.

Helen Garner, Freda Head, Suzy Stewart, and Babs Chicoine

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WORLD WAR II WIFE CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY

By Amanda E. West Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

IVE DAYS after her 17th birthday, on June 14, 1942, Muriel Moyers nervously squeezed Leonard Coble's hand.

"How old do I have to be to get married?" Leonard asked the justice of the peace in Huntsville.

When he responded "21," 17-year-old Leonard, who most knew as "Shorty," replied, "Then I'm 21."

Pointing to his secret girlfriend, Muriel, he added, "And how old does she have to be?"

When the reply came that Muriel must be 18, Leonard pronounced, "Then she's 18." Difficult situations had always marked their lives. They were born less than six years after the armistice of World War I and lived through the aftermath of the Spanish influenza epidemic. In 1929, when they were 4 years old, the stock market crashed, plunging our nation deep into the Great Depression, while the dust bowl wreaked havoc in the Midwest.

The day they fled to Alabama and eloped was no different — across the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, World War II raged. American soldiers were being drafted and deployed overseas. More than 2,400 were dead or unac-

> Muriel and Leonard in 1942

GOOD NEWS SHELBYVILLE



counted for at Pearl Harbor, and in the Netherlands, just two days earlier, Anne Frank celebrated her 13th birthday. Anne's father, Otto, had gifted her a diary.

Amongst a world filled with chaos and an uncertain future, Muriel and Shorty devotedly said, "I do." When the newlyweds returned to Lincoln County, Muriel shared a two-bedroom house with her new in-laws and husband.

"My father-in-law, Mr. Coble, was sitting on the front porch when we got back. I was scared to death. But they welcomed me, and were good to me," Muriel recalled. "I'd known Shorty since the fifth grade. We met at the Boonshill School after my family

moved back from Texas. My daddy wasn't well, so we'd moved to Kerryville for a drier climate, and my daddy worked at the Shriners Institute there. Shorty was in my class, and we sort of caught each other's eye. In fact, I failed that year, probably because my mind wasn't on studying. When he moved up to the high school, we had to see each other through the window."

According to the Cobles' daughter, Kathy Shearon, "My desk at Boonshill had their initials carved in it. For their 50th wedding anniversary, my uncle gave them a school book where Daddy had written notes about Mama."

Before they celebrated their second anniversary, Shorty









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▲ Holding a cherished photo of Muriel and Shorty, the family honors a love story that began in grade school and lasted nearly eight decades.

joined the Navy and was stationed in Detroit for boot camp. Afterward, he and Muriel spent three months in Auburn, Alabama, while he trained as a radioman. When he deployed overseas to serve on the USS Cooner, Muriel moved in with her parents and welcomed their first child, Jerry.

When the Tennessee Valley Authority expanded into Lincoln County, it was Muriel and her father, Earl, who wired almost every house with electricity.

Muriel recalled, "When the war ended, we finally had a radio. Mother, Daddy, and me were all huddled around listening."

Shorty served in the North Atlantic when the Germans surrendered and was stationed in Hawaii when Japan surrendered.

Their son, Jerry, said, "Daddy was remarkable. Because of his experience in the Navy, he became a leader in Western Union and worked 39 years for them. He had very humble beginnings and never attended college, but he became their director of training."

Five years after Jerry was born, they welcomed Kathy.

"Our daddy helped put up the very first Western Union satellite called 'Westar.' In April 2024, they celebrated the 50th anniversary of that launch," Kathy said.

In 2012, Shorty battled dementia. Muriel would instruct him to put his arms around her and to say "goodnight." In a moment of clarity, Shorty said, "Thank you for always being so sweet to me."

Six weeks and three days before their 79th wedding anniversary, on May 4, 2021, Muriel held Shorty's hand for the last time here on earth.

"We had a happy marriage. When he saw me coming down the hall at the Veterans Nursing Home, he'd point and say, 'She's mine!' We had 79 years together, and that's about as much as you can have," said Muriel.

Muriel celebrated her 100th birthday on June 9.

Her son, Jerry, who is a retired electrical engineer, said, "Our childhood was like a Norman Rockwell painting. All my life, I've watched my mother, and her biggest trait is how she's always been considerate of others and makes friends easily. Behind her smile is a person who cares for and loves others."

Kathy, who was a registered nurse before she retired, added, "Sometimes, it was to her own detriment. But I am who I am because of my mother and because of her encouragement."

The Cobles are expecting a new addition and will soon have five generations in Bedford County. **GN**



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Don't miss this chance for your child's art to be part of our holiday tradition! Must be 10 and under to enter!

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Tangy Grilled Beef

Submitted by Rosalind Lindsey

1 can tomato soup 1 t. Worcestershire sauce 1 t. garlic powder 1/4 t. dried thyme leaves, crushed 2 t. packed brown sugar 2 t. lemon juice 2 t. vegetable oil 11/2 lbs. boneless beef sirloin steak, cut 3/4" thick

In a large bowl, mix soup, sugar, lemon juice, oil, Worcestershire, garlic and thyme. Brush mixture on both sides of steak.Place steak on hot grill and cook until golden brown and slightly charred. Turn steak over and continue to cook until desired level of doneness. Bring remaining soup mixture to a boil and serve with steak.

Roasted Corn on the Cob

Submitted by Betty Pirtle

8 ears fresh corn in husks 1/3 c. Italian dressing 2 1/2 T. water 1 T. chili powder 1/8 t. ground red pepper

Carefully peel back husks, exposing corn. Leave husks attached. Remove and discard silks. Combine Italian dressing, water, chili powder, and red pepper in a small mixing bowl. Stir well and brush over corn. Return husk to original position and tie the tips with wire twist-ties. Grill corn over medium hot coals for 30 minutes or until the corn is tender. Turn corn every 5 minutes.

New York Push Cart Hot Dog Onion Sauce Submitted by Emma Hardin

2 T. vegetable oil 2 md. onions, sliced ¼ inch slices 1/4 c. ketchup pinch of ground cinnamon 1/8 t. chili powder dash of hot pepper sauce dash of salt 1/2 c. water

In a medium skillet, heat vegetable oil over medium heat. Add onion slices and saute for 7 minutes or until golden brown. Add ketchup, cinnamon, chili powder, hot pepper sauce, and salt. Pour in water, stir, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, for about 10 minutes. Serve over hot dogs.

Submit your recipes to be included in Good News Magazine and the Exchange Cookbook: www.southernaprons.com





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THE STACKPOLE FAMILY BORNTO BORNTO SERVE Three generations of military service



By Amanda E. West // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes and submitted by Medina Stackpole

edina Stackpole fluffed her pillow, then jammed it between her aching back and the headboard. She patted the empty spot on the mattress and whispered, "We miss you, Rick."

The words of her eldest son, Ricky, echoed in her mind: "When I grow up, I'm going to serve my country like Daddy, both my grandpas, and like you did, Mom."

Reaching down into the cherry nightstand, Medina grabbed a sheet of notebook paper and smoothed it before pressing her ballpoint pen to the blank page. In the 1980s and early '90s, before personal computers and widespread internet access, and during a time when long-distance phone calls were reserved for emergencies only, Medina may have penned something like this to her husband, Rick: "Tonight, as I tucked our boys in bed, we talked about how you were born to serve and protect our country, just as their grandfathers were. After we finished praying for your continued safety and for you to come home to us soon, Ricky and Trevor both agreed they want to grow up and be just like their daddy."

Pausing, Medina reread the last four words: "just like their daddy." Patriotism was as much a part of her heritage as it was her husband Rick's. Both were raised as Air Force brats, guided by fathers who had each spent 26 years in service before retiring as chief master sergeants.

Two weeks before their first son's birth, Medina had received an honorable discharge, trading a military career for moth"I HAVE ALWAYS HAD A SENSE OF PATRIOTISM. I'M VERY PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN."

MEDINA STACKPOLE



Medina served in the U.S. Air Force from 1979 to 1981, proudly following in the footsteps of her father — a chief master sergeant — and paving the way for her sons.



Rick joined the Air Force in 1975 and served for 20 years, including deployments in England and Turkey. As an F-111D crew chief and supervisor, his dedication left a lasting impact.


▲ Rick Stackpole

erhood. Years later, while the Stackpoles were stationed in England for three years, Trevor was born. Rick had also been born in England, bringing the Stackpole family's military journey full circle.

Each of Rick's assignments lasted three years.

"The sacrifice is pretty deep," recalled Rick. "I joined the United States Air Force in August 1975 and retired in August 1995. I spent most of my military career stationed in New Mexico. I also did two tours overseas — three years in England with family and two years unaccompanied without them. The biggest hardship on me was separation from my family, which could be from weeks to years. There are also a lot of long hours. Sometimes, more than 12, and you don't get overtime pay."

During his 20 years of service, Rick was a dedicated F-111D Crew Chief of the 27th Tactical Fighter Wing on the wing commander's aircraft at Cannon AFB in New Mexico. He also acted as production supervisor during the first leg of Operation Provide Comfort while stationed in Turkey. Being chosen for an incentive flight on the aircraft where he worked was a highlight of his career, as well as being stationed at the same U.S. Air Force Base as his brother, Steve. Rick and Medina are still dedicated to those who serve, or who have served. Their commitment to veterans continues through organizations like Veterans of Foreign Wars, Tunnel to Towers, and Disabled American Veterans. Medina, after years of nurturing their children, shifted her care toward others. After spending 33 years in nursing, she is now planning her retirement.

Medina said, "I served in the U.S. Air Force from February 1979 - July 1981 at Cannon AFB in New Mexico. My dad was a chief master sergeant there, and I was able to serve alongside him. Having grown up in a military family, this was all I knew. Growing up, my dad and our family had been stationed in England, Germany, and many other stateside bases. I met Rick when I was on a delayed enlistment, and we were married in August 1979. I have always had a sense of patriotism. I'm very proud to be an American."

The principles the Stackpoles passed down to their boys echo the lessons learned from their own upbringing. Honesty, respect, hard work — values that carried their son Ricky into the U.S. Army and then into the Tennessee Army National Guard, where he serves as a lieutenant colonel. Trevor followed his own path, rising



 Medina and Rick's sons; Lt. Col Ricky Stackpole and Tsgt Trevor Stackpole in 2017.



A Medina during her basic training

to technical sergeant in the Air Force, and is stationed in Nashville as a recruiter.

Decades have passed since Medina first sat down to write that letter, her words carrying well wishes across the miles. She once wondered if their boys would grow to understand the weight of service. Now, she watches them in uniform, following the same call.

Service remains at the core of all four of their lives — not just in uniform, but in the values they uphold each day. As for their grandchildren, Medina says it's too soon to know which paths they'll take. **GN**

"THE BIGGEST HARDSHIP ON ME WAS SEPARATION FROM MY FAMILY."

RICK STACKPOLE



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From his kitchen in Shelbyville, Army veteran Dave Rogers is cooking up more than meals — he's creating community, one dish and one veteran at a time.

DAVE ROGERS TURNING HUNGER INTO HOPE

One veteran's journey from homelessness to heroism is feeding thousands through Cooking With a Veteran.

By Amanda E. West // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes



66 C ooking With a Veteran" began with hunger — an ache that Dave Rogers knew too well. Before he enlisted in the U.S. Army and for a short time after his honorable discharge, Rogers faced homelessness. This permanent mark, left by Rogers' temporary situation, stirred within him a desire to ensure others wouldn't face their struggles alone. When the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the nation, worsening food insecurity and leaving veterans among those going hungry, Rogers knew he must act. "World War II and Korean War veterans were not getting hot meals and had no way to cook for themselves," recalled Rogers. "I cooked for them, and the program kept growing. I learned that if a veteran is having a hard time with a traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder, it is even harder for them to focus on getting better when they are also worried about where their next meal is going to come from."

Rogers was living in New York at the time, and though helping others overcome hunger was at the forefront of his mind, he



 Grunt, Dave's loyal service dog, has been by his side for eight years — a quiet companion on a mission to feed and uplift fellow veterans.

"SINCE WE WORK OUT OF MY KITCHEN, I AM BLESSED THAT 98-100% OF DONATIONS GO DIRECTLY TO HELP VETERANS."

DAVE ROGERS

was also deeply concerned about the mental health of his comrades. From March 2020 through January 2021, he hosted an online daily cooking show where he shared food, art, and stories of personal growth with veterans in 11 other states.

With Grunt — his trusty service dog of eight years — by his side, Rogers has now turned his mission into a lifeline for many. Drawing from his own experiences and the warmth of memories of his beloved grandmother, who taught him how to cook, Rogers created his 501(c) (3) nonprofit. Though it started with home-cooked meals, using the principle of "teaching a man to fish" versus "giving a man a fish," he teaches veterans how to make the food in their pantries stretch further than they thought possible.

"After we moved to a weekly program, we began to help in other ways. As we grew, we started working with other programs and organizations, cooking for first responders and veterans in the community. I teach veterans struggling with food insecurity to make broths from leftovers and how to turn meals into something new. I help them explore ways to reduce cost by knowing that they don't need a lot of ingredients to make a great meal."

Since those meager beginnings in New York, thousands have now found inspiration in his online cooking show, and now that Rogers lives in Shelbyville, he continues to work tirelessly. He is truly living out the Army's motto, "Be All You Can Be," and through cookbook sales and numerous fundraisers, he is making it possible for fellow veterans to do the same.

"To date, we have fed over 1,500 veterans and their family members," said Rogers. "We've provided 300 grocery shopping cards to the Veterans Administration and service officers here in Tennessee to give to veterans, and donated over \$10,000 to various organizations helping veterans." When it comes to running a nonprofit, Rogers said, "I like to talk directly to people when I can. This lets them see my passion for what I am doing. Since we work out of my kitchen, I am blessed that 98-100% of donations go directly to help veterans."

Armed with the belief that "food is the language that brings us all together," and the motivation of "Feeding Veterans One Meal at a Time," Rogers said, "We are working to establish annual funds and partnerships that will allow us to help veterans not just in Tennessee, but in several states in the next couple of years. We also just created a free veterans guide for veterans in Tennessee. We also have a music night on July 19 at The Fly Arts Center to raise funds to buy grocery cards for veterans, and in September, we will have our second annual 'Crawl, Walk, Run." **GN**

For more information, follow Cooking With a Veteran on Facebook or visit www.cookingwithaveteran.org.



▲ With each meal, Dave teaches veterans how to stretch ingredients, reduce waste, and find empowerment through food.



Grunt, Dave's loyal service dog



Rogers believes that great food doesn't require fancy ingredients — just heart, resourcefulness, and a little seasoning.

Scan the QR Code with your smart phone to see more photos from Good News. 100% of profits from purchased prints are donated back to the community through nonprofits.





"Mrs. Heather, please don't cry Because toys you didn't have to buy

Sometimes the shelves get kind of bare But because of love for Mandy and children, people did share

Stuffed animals, blankets, cars, and Play-Doh With such good choices, children's eyes will surely glow

There is Spiderman, Stitch, Minnie, and Mickey Mouse Lots of new toys have arrived at Junior's House

So thankful for everyone's help as I do strive To take care of children and keep Mandy's memory alive

After all the horrid things they do tell I hope we can put the bad guys in jail."

CAROL JEAN TURNING TEARS INTO TOYS

The second annual Mandy Jean Memorial Toy Drive begins soon.

By Amanda E. West // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes and submitted by Amber Chapman

A S HEATHER Warden from Junior's House read the poem Detective Carol Jean of the Shelbyville Police Department (SPD) had written, Jean's words saturated Warden's heart, and she cried tears of joy.

She replied, "I think you should continue writing these poems about Mandy Jean. They help you process your grief, and they encourage others who have also experienced loss."

Named after a 6-year-old who died following severe abuse, Junior's House began in 1996 with a mission to provide children a safe place to divulge their deepest secrets. It serves Lincoln, Marshall, and Bedford counties. As a nonprofit, Junior's House is funded through grants and community support. Before the children leave, they are given the opportunity to choose something from the toy closet.

Carol, who has been in law enforcement for 34 years, makes frequent visits to Junior's House.

"After seeing the low supply of toys they had available, I realized I could honor Mandy's memory while helping children who have been through unimaginable trauma. It was another way of keeping her memory alive while making a difference. The toys bring the children a moment of joy something that is purely for them, reminding them they are cared for and valued."

Born on Aug. 18, 1993, Mandy Jean was Carol's only child.



With a photo of Mandy Jean in her hands, Detective Carol Jean honors the daughter who changed her life. Mandy's memory now lives on through Carol's outreach — bringing hope, toys, and healing to children at Junior's House.



Colleagues and friends Amber Chapman and Carol Jean display the poetry book created in honor of Mandy Jean, along with a favorite photo of Mandy. Through their collaboration, Carol's words became a lasting tribute to the daughter she loves and misses every day.



Heather Warden, Detective Carol Jean, and Hannah Faulkner hold just a few of the toys donated in Mandy Jean's memory. Through the annual Mandy Jean Memorial Toy Drive, the community brings joy to children recovering from trauma — one toy at a time.

"One of her lungs collapsed at birth, and she had a seizure. Two hours later, she was transported to Vanderbilt Hospital in the Angel Ambulance. She had another seizure the next morning."

Doctors told Carol before she took Mandy home three weeks later, "We don't know what's wrong with your daughter. We don't know if she'll live six months or a year."

Eventually, Mandy was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, and she died shortly after celebrating her 30th birthday.

"Mandy's mind was sharp," Carol said. "She was nonverbal, but we had ways to communicate, especially between us. On Dec. 12, 2023, my world was turned upside down. It has been so difficult to live without Mandy. I know she is happy and painfree in heaven, but I am having a hard time learning to live without her."

In the spring of 2024, Carol's sister suggested she share her thoughts in the form of poetry. Amber Chapman, who works at the SPD, typed and illustrated each poem before compiling them into book form for Carol to give to her friends and family for Christmas.

Carol keeps Mandy's memory alive through sharing her poetry, and in honor of Mandy's birthday, the community comes together to donate items to restock the toy closet at Junior's House.

The first Mandy Jean Toy Drive was held last year.

Carol said, "The community has been incredible. From sharing the word to donating toys, their support made our first drive a success. It's a beautiful way to bring people together for a meaningful cause."

The second annual Mandy Jean Memorial Toy Drive will be Aug. 11-18.

"Mandy would've been 32 on Aug. 18. There will be a large wrapped box in the lobby of the Shelbyville Police Department, where items can be dropped off. Monetary donations or gift cards can also be left in the front office," said Carol. **GN**

For more information on Junior's House, visit www.juniorshousecac.org. "I REALIZED I COULD HONOR MANDY'S MEMORY WHILE HELPING CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN THROUGH UNIMAGINABLE TRAUMA."

CAROL JEAN



Mandy and Carol



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